

REMARKS

All pending claims 1-32 stand finally rejected in an Action made final mailed November 13, 2006. In this submission accompanying a Request for Continued Examination, Applicants have amended claims 1-4, 8, 10, 14-17, 21, 23 and 27-30, and have canceled claims 11, 13, 24, 26 and 31. Accordingly, claims 1-10, 12, 14-23, 25, 27-30 and 32 are pending. Applicants request consideration of the pending claims as amended and in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 101

Claims 1-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 on the ground that none of the claims are directed to statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner contended that “[i]ndependent claims 1, 14 and 27 merely claim functional descriptive material, i.e., abstract ideas,” and “[t]he claims are not providing useful, concrete and tangible results.”

Without conceding the correctness of the Examiner’s position, Applicants submit that the independent claims, as amended above, are not merely claiming abstract ideas, and provide useful, concrete and tangible results. In particular, the independent claims, as amended, recite a result of an electronic file being exported to one or more external systems for display of the electronic file using an application residing on the one or more external systems. Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are directed to statutory subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the Section 101 rejection of the pending claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 and 103

All of the independent claims 1, 14 and 27, and various dependent claims, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dorsett Jr. (U.S. Patent 6,658,429, hereafter Dorsett). The remaining claims not rejected as anticipated, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dorsett in view of Woolston et al. (U.S. Patent 6,856,967, hereafter Woolston).

Applicants have amended each of the independent claims 1, 17 and 27 to define more particularly the subject matter sought to be protected. In addition, Applicants have amended and canceled various dependent claims for consistency. The amendments add no new matter.

Applicants submit that each of the independent claims 1, 14 and 27, as amended, defines subject matter that is patentable over both Dorsett and Woolston, as do the pending dependent claims.

Dorsett discloses database systems and methods for storing and manipulating experimental data. (Col. 1, lines 7-8.) Dorsett describes, as background, that combinatorial chemistry refers to the approach of creating vast numbers of compounds by reacting a set of starting chemicals in all possible combinations. (Col. 1, lines 38-40.) Dorsett further describes that the vast quantities of generated compound data can easily overwhelm conventional data acquisition, processing and management systems. (Col. 2, lines 10-13.) Dorsett addresses this issue, and discloses techniques for processing data from chemical experimentation for or on a library of materials or a subset of such a library of materials. (Col. 2, lines 39-45.)

Dorsett does not disclose or suggest many of the limitations set forth in Applicants' claim 1. Firstly, Dorsett does not even relate to, as is now recited in the preamble of claim 1, a "computer-implemented method for exporting information created in a first system using a first application to one or more external systems," let alone such a computer-implemented method as set forth in the body of the claim. Rather, Dorsett relates to something entirely different, namely, processing data from chemical experimentation for or on a library of materials or a subset of such a library of materials. (Col. 2, lines 39-45.)

In addition, Dorsett does not disclose or suggest, as recited in claim 1, a method that includes "retrieving data from an identified database object, the database object data including attribute data for the database object, the attributes including at least one static attribute with a predefined data structure and at least one dynamic attribute that is dynamically configured by a user." In Applicants' claim 1 method, the database attributes including at least one such static attribute and at least one such dynamic attribute causes the need for the method set forth in claim 1, and in particular, the need for "creating and storing an electronic file for the database object in a generalized data format by constructing a generalized data structure from the attribute using the metadata, and parsing the attribute data into the generalized data structure," as recited in claim 1.

This claim element of “creating and storing an electronic data file in a generalized data format ...” is also not disclosed or suggested by Dorsett. In particular, the Examiner’s contentions that Figure 1 and column 9, lines 20-30, of Dorsett disclose “constructing a generalized data structure for the attribute data using the metadata” is incorrect. To the contrary, in column 9 Dorsett merely discloses the fact that objects can have properties including metadata that can define the object class and may be assigned to instances of the object class by the user. This does not, however, disclose or suggest constructing a generalized data structure using the metadata. It is also not correct, as contended by the Examiner, that Figure 1 and column 19, lines 18-21, of Dorsett discloses “parsing the attribute data into the generalized data structure” are both incorrect. That is clearly not disclosed or suggested in the portion of column 19 cited by the Examiner, or anywhere else in Dorsett. Indeed, column 19, lines 18-21, merely discloses parsing an XML stream into appropriate database tables, and does not disclose parsing database object attribute data into a constructed generalized data structure, as required by claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 defines subject matter that is patentable over Dorsett, as do the rejected dependent claims that depend from claim 1. In addition, Woolston does not address the deficiencies of Dorsett with respect to Applicants’ claim 1, and indeed, the Examiner has not cited Woolston for that purpose. With respect to the other pending independent claims 14 and 27, as well as their respective dependents, these claims are patentable for the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1 and its dependents.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 14 and 27 each defines subject matter that is patentable over Dorsett and Woolston, as do the pending dependent claims, and Applicants ask that the Examiner remove his anticipation and obviousness rejections of all pending claims.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1-10, 12, 14-23, 25, 27-30 and 32 are in condition for allowance, and ask that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or

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other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Examiner is authorized to charge \$790 for RCE fee and a \$1,020 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee to deposit account 06-1050. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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